

As an active member in the community Mr. Eddie J. Fair stays involved with many organizations that included but are not limited to:

1. Member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.
2. Member of the Sollie B. Norwood Lodge Number 699.
3. Life Member NAACP.
4. Member of Leadership of Jackson 2005–current.
5. Member of the Jackson Rotary Club.
6. Member of the National & Mississippi Tax Collector/Assessor Association.
7. Former President of the Jackson Pan Hellenic Council.
8. Former Basileus, Omega Psi Phi, Inc., Beta Alpha Chapter.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Eddie J. Fair, Jr. for his dedication to serving others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed Roll Call vote Nos. 195 and 196. Had I been present, I would have voted aye on both.

CONGRESSIONAL TEACHERS AWARD

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of outstanding public school teachers in Florida's 16th Congressional District.

I was once told that children are 25 percent of the population, but they are 100 percent of the future.

And it's true. The education of a child is an investment, not only in that student, but in the future of our country.

Therefore, I established the Congressional Teacher Awards to honor educators for their ability to teach and inspire students.

An independent panel has chosen the following teachers from Manatee, Sarasota, and Hillsborough Counties to receive Florida's 16th District 2017 Congressional Teacher Award for their accomplishments as educators:

Danielle Murphy for her accomplishments as a teacher at Boyette Springs Elementary in Riverview.

Carol Pelletier for her accomplishments as a teacher at Sarasota Military Academy Prep in Sarasota.

Emilee Vermilion for her accomplishments as a teacher at Southeast High School in Bradenton.

On behalf of the people of Florida's 16th District I congratulate each of these outstanding teachers and offer my sincere appreciation for their service and dedication.

TRIBUTE TO WILL SMITH

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, it is with the deepest gratitude that I rise on this bittersweet occasion to recognize Will Smith, who is leaving Capitol Hill after more than two decades of distinguished service.

Will has been my right hand in the halls of Congress for nearly two decades, and I cannot imagine a more thoughtful advisor, a more capable strategist, or a more loyal friend. A native of Beattyville, Kentucky, Will began his career on Capitol Hill in 1994, working for now-Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL. In 1998, he brought his talents to my personal office, where he eventually became Chief of Staff in 2002.

Over his 12 years in my personal office, the people of Kentucky could not have asked for a better advocate or a more capable public servant. Will's upbringing in his small eastern Kentucky hometown and his Appalachian roots have always been reflected in his work, and his legacy will be felt throughout the region for decades to come. He has championed numerous projects that benefitted the people of Kentucky's Fifth Congressional District from flood protection, to water and sewer expansion, to transportation improvements, and the like. He was instrumental in standing up Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, an organization focused on environmental clean-up, as well as our nation's pre-eminent regional anti-drug organization, Operation UNITE, that has become a model for nationwide replication. And holding true to Kentucky tradition, Will has always loyally cheered on the UK Wildcats from the Nation's capital. He has never forgotten where he came from or the people he came to serve.

This remained true when I assumed the Chairmanship of the House Committee on Appropriations in 2011. Will stayed by my side—first as Deputy Staff Director for the Committee and then in 2013, was promoted to Clerk and Staff Director. During his tenure, he helped shepherd 70 bills to passage—bills that saved the American taxpayers more than \$126 billion.

His steady demeanor and strong leadership have been an asset to the Committee—particularly during some of the most trying times of the past six years. Even in the face of shut-downs, Will led with tact, professionalism, and thoughtfulness, working tirelessly to find a solution and get the job done. He is truly beloved by his colleagues and those congressional staff who have been fortunate enough to call him their boss and mentor.

As we all know, these congressional staff work long hours, and often sacrifice weekends and holidays in order to keep this esteemed institution running smoothly. This inevitably takes a toll on personal commitments, and we also owe a debt of gratitude to Will's lovely wife, Kim, and his cherished children, Morgan and Matthew.

Will is not going far away. But his absence will nonetheless be felt deeply throughout this institution. Will, on behalf of the Appropriations Committee and this Congress, I thank you for your service to our country. I wish you all the best in the future. Godspeed.

ROSENBERG FIRE CHIEF RETIRES

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Wade Goates of Houston, TX, and thank him for his leadership at the Rosenberg Volunteer Fire Department.

Wade joined the Rosenberg Volunteer Fire Department in 1992 and began working as a full-time firefighter in 1995. His commitment to public service led Wade to several promotions throughout his time with the fire department, from fire fighter to fire marshal and then fire chief in 2012. Wade received the Firefighter of the Year award in 2001 and the American Legion's Firefighter of the Year award in 2002. In 2008, the City of Rosenberg awarded Wade the Willie D. McQueen Award for his service to residents and coworkers. Wade retired from the Rosenberg Volunteer Fire Department on February 24th and plans to join the Fulshear-Simonton Fire Department. Both communities are lucky to have his dedication and commitment to service.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, I would like to thank Wade Goates for his 25 years of service with Rosenberg. We wish him good luck with the Fulshear-Simonton Fire Department and thank him for his continued dedication to keeping TX-22 safe.

HONORING LITTLE ZION M.B. CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable historical church, Little Zion Missionary Baptist of Money, Mississippi and the great leadership it is under.

The Little Zion M.B. Church in Money, Mississippi was built in 1871 by field-hand laborers. Mrs. Bloodsol gave the people of Wade, Whittington and the Bloodsol Plantations the property. It sits in the center of these plantations.

The bible states that "Upon this rock, I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it". Taking this verse into consideration the church's name became Little Zion. The name is significant because the Hebrew meaning of Zion is Jerusalem and Little Zion is the little Jerusalem.

After the construction of the church, Mrs. Bloodsol gave her yard-boy a letter to deliver to the preacher of the church explaining to the church members what the letter deed meant. She told the yard-boy to tell the members that if they did not understand the letter deed, she would send a rider to explain it.

When the church was built, it was facing the Tallahatchie River which during that time was the main route of travel. In 1929, a fire partially burned the church. When it was repaired, it was built facing the road.

The early leaders of the church were: R.L. Reynolds, A.D. Williams, A.D. Burke, H.L. Collins and S.T. Taylor. They were the cornerstones of the church and they were mainly responsible for the church's continued existence.

Along with the church leaders, many early deacons and wives were responsible for the welfare of the church. Among them were deacons: L.A. Hines, Robert Lathan, C.L. Lofts, Tom Eskridge, Ed McCall, Percy Paul and Bill Hannal and their wives.

Little Zion's present leader is Reverend McAuther McKinnley. Under his leadership the church has blossomed. For 21 years Rev. McKinnley has been responsible for carrying on what Rev. Reynolds started 144 years ago.

Today, Little Zion honors those who took the leadership roles and passed the torch on to the present leaders. Ten years ago, an historical marker was placed on the site of the church. This marker was important because it was a symbol of the long history and struggle of the delta.

Little Zion thanks the fore-parents for making those days possible through the good and bad days it still stands.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Little Zion Missionary Baptist Church for its dedication to serving our great country.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND RETIREMENT OF MR. TIMOTHY BROWN

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a valued staff member of the Office of Legislative Counsel—Mr. Timothy Brown—who is retiring this month after 37 years of distinguished service to the House of Representatives.

The Office of Legislative Counsel is an essential but oftentimes unheralded part of our Congressional support staff. Every bill and amendment we consider in the House of Representatives is drafted with the aid of the professionals in this office. In the course of my two decades of service on the Science Committee, Tim has aided me and my staff innumerable times in the drafting of legislation and amendments. While Tim's background is that of a lawyer, he has worked with the Science Committee staff to draft so many NASA, NSF, and NIST authorizations over the years, that Tim has become, in many respects, a science and space policy expert. In his quiet way, Tim taught the art of applying critical thinking to legislative drafting, and our bills were the better for it. Tim's expertise and dedication to his craft will be sorely missed on the Science Committee.

While we will miss Tim, I hope after nearly four decades of service, that Tim will not miss us too much. I'm sure he is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, Sally, and his four children, Andrew, Alex, Emily, and Olivia. Hopefully Tim will have more time to pursue his passions like his love of basketball. Perhaps it's fitting that Tim is retiring in the midst of the NCAA March Madness.

We often speak of the dedicated staff who make this institution such a wonderful place in which to work. It is the sense of this Congresswoman that Tim Brown is just such a person. The Science Committee's Members and staff wish him well as he moves on to new endeavors and a relaxing retirement. I

thank Tim, for his many years of dedicated and loyal service.

HONORING THE DEDICATED SERVICE AND SELFLESS SACRIFICE OF SERGEANT FIRST CLASS ROBERT R. BONIFACE

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with both profound sadness and deep gratitude that I rise to pay tribute to a fallen decorated American hero. On March 19, 2017, Sergeant First Class Robert R. Boniface of the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), located in Florida's First Congressional District, tragically lost his life in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel. SFC Boniface was 34 years old, but lived a lifetime marked by and full of service.

SFC Boniface entered the Army in March 2006 as an 18 X-ray. After Infantry Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Benning, Georgia, he attended Airborne School before being assigned to the Special Warfare Center and School. SFC Boniface completed the Special Forces Qualification Course, earning his Green Beret in 2010 and was assigned to the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, as a Special Forces Medical Sergeant.

Boniface's military education includes the Special Operations Jumpmaster Course, Senior Leader Course, Combat Diver Qualification Course, Special Forces Diving Medical Technician Course, Special Forces Qualification Course, Special Operations Combat Medic Course, Advanced Leaders Course, Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape Course, Basic Leaders Course, and the U.S. Army Static Line Airborne Course.

SFC Boniface's awards and decorations include two Bronze Star Medals, the Army Commendation Medal, two Army Good Conduct Medals, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with two Campaign Stars, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, three Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbons, Army Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, Special Forces Tab, Combat Infantryman Badge, Special Forces Combat Diver Badge, and Parachutist Badge.

Mr. Speaker, there are no words I, this body of Congress, or the Nation can say that might assuage the bereavement of the Boniface family. All I can say is on behalf of a humble and grateful Nation, we thank them for the love, counsel, and support given to Robert, which helped make him the hero he became both in uniform and as a father. His life stands as a testament that freedom is not free, and his legacy will echo in time as an example of the ultimate sacrifice for all free people. I pray that God will be with Robert's wife, Rebekah; his daughter, Mia Elia, and all their family and friends during this time of great mourning, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING ALICE ELIZABETH GRANT HOGANS

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Alice Elizabeth Grant Hogans on the occasion of her retirement, having served for 16 years on the House Appropriations Committee. In total, she has provided more than 25 years of distinguished, quiet service to our country. Her dedication to public service and integrity stands as a model for us all.

Alice, a native of Charlotte, North Carolina, graduated from Duke University with a Bachelor's degree in Economics. She also earned a Master of Philosophy Degree in International Finance from the Centre for Development Studies at the University of Glasgow in Scotland.

Alice began her career in Washington, D.C. in 1989 as a staff assistant at the Congressional Budget Office. From there, she rose to the position of budget analyst in the Scorekeeping Unit in 1990 before leaving for graduate school in Scotland in 1993. In 1995, she accepted a position with the Senate Committee on the Budget under the leadership of Chairman Pete V. Domenici (R-NM) and staff director Bill Hoagland. She was the Analyst for International Affairs until beginning her dedicated service to the House Appropriations Committee in 2001. Alice began on the Foreign Operations Subcommittee as professional staff in 2001, and spent time as professional staff on the Treasury-Transportation, HUD Subcommittee, and the Financial Services Subcommittee before ending up back on State, Foreign Operations Subcommittee in 2011, where she was responsible for overseeing spending for global health programs, including HIV/AIDS, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and trade promotion agencies such as the U.S. Export-Import Bank, and several related agencies.

Alice's contributions extend beyond her role on the Appropriations Committee. For years, she was the Treasurer of the Board for the non-profit Combined Federal Agencies Child Development Center, and a volunteer at her church and children's elementary school.

As we all know, congressional staff work countless hours and through countless holiday seasons in order to keep this esteemed institution running. This inevitably takes a toll on personal commitments, and nothing means more to Alice than her supportive and loving family, her husband Dan, her children, James and Catherine, and of course, her mother and sister.

Mr. Speaker, while Alice is leaving this institution, she will not be forgotten. Her good humor, faithful service, and commitment to excellence has left a lasting imprint on all of us and on the departments and agencies for which she was responsible. I wish Alice and her family well as she enters this new chapter of her life and ask my colleagues to join me in expressing my appreciation for her contributions to our country.